



Focus on **Marinas and Fuel**

Transfers to Non-Recreational Vessels

from Ecology's Program, Spill Prevention, Preparedness & Response

There are over 2000 commercial vessels in Washington that fuel at marinas on rivers and coastal communities around the state. In our experience, leaks, drips and spills inadvertently occur all too frequently during small vessel fueling. There may be a cultural belief that a small sheen upon the water causes no harm to the environment, yet the cumulative impact of small spills (considered non-point pollution because a source is not always located) can be significant to this state. In 2004 the Washington State Legislature set an ambitious goal of "Zero Oil Spills to Water." Ecology's strategy is to develop a plan that will provide adequate and full protection against oil spills in ways that do not impose onerous costs on businesses.

A rule advisory committee was formed as a collaborative effort to write an oil transfer rule and meetings began in November 2004. Through this process, we are actively promoting cooperation between state, federal and tribal governments, industry, and local environmental and community groups to encourage the incorporation of experience and resources for effective development of an oil transfer rule. With a new rule in place, we believe that spills will be eliminated; response capability will be increased to protect Washington's citizens, wildlife, and natural resources from the environmental hazards of oil transfer spills.

Q: Why is Ecology developing an oil transfer plan rule?

A: The 2004 legislature requires us to safeguard role during oil transfers through rules on response equipment and improved prevention measures. These rules must be finished by June 2006. We just completed a study on oil transfer practices in Washington and provided the information to the Legislature. A copy of the study can be found at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0508005.html or by calling 360-407-7455.

Q: How does this rule affect marinas?

A: Almost 80 percent of Washington State's 350 private and public marinas are located along the shores of Puget Sound or the inland rivers. Marinas fuel more than 2000 fishing vessels (Department of Licensing) and more than

Focus on Marinas and Fuel Transfers to Non-Recreational Vessels

165,000 power boats and 21,500 sailboats (Puget Sound Action Team 2005). The draft rules will include requirements for transfer facilities including marinas, vessels, ships, refineries, mobile facilities and other oil transfer terminals. The requirements vary accordingly to the type and volume of oil being transferred. As a marina, you may be required to have oil spill response equipment on site and training for your staff on its use. We plan to allow you time to phase in all new requirements.

Q: How does this new rule offer greater protection for our environment?

A: Improving prevention techniques such as communication of the critical operations of an oil transfer, greater training requirements, increased management oversight, better equipment located on site, and increasing monitoring of transfers from Ecology are just some of the areas we have to improve protection. Prevention, preparedness and response to oil spills, on every level, are critical in protection of our pristine natural resources.

Q: How Can I Be Involved in the Rule Amendment Process?

A: Ecology will actively seek ideas for issues that need to be addressed in the rule revision. In addition, once draft rule language is written, Ecology will sponsor workshops and hearings to present the proposed changes to the public. If you would like to be notified of the public involvement opportunities or wish more information, please contact: *Jason Reichert, Department of Ecology, Spill Prevention, Preparedness, & Response, PO Box 47600, Olympia WA 98504-7600 or email: jare461@ecy.wa.gov*

If you need this information in an alternate format, please contact Spills Program at 360-407-7455. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 or 1-800-833-6388 for TTY.